

February 5, 2013

Mr. Mark A. Schimmel  
Site Vice President  
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant  
1717 Wakonade Drive East  
Welch, MN 55089

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED LICENSE RENEWAL  
FOR THE PRAIRIE ISLAND INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE  
INSTALLATION (Docket 072-00010)

Dear Mr. Schimmel:

By letter dated October 20, 2011, as supplemented February 29, 2012, Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (NSPM) submitted an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to renew Special Nuclear Materials (SNM) License Number SNM-2506 for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plan Site-Specific Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). NSPM is requesting that its license be renewed for a 40-year period.

On March 30, 2012, the NRC staff found NSPM's application to be acceptable for detailed review. On November 7, 2012, the NRC staff participated in a site visit at the Prairie Island ISFSI.

As part of its review, the NRC staff is assessing the potential environmental impacts of NSPM's proposed license renewal and has determined that additional information is required to complete our environmental review. Enclosed are the staff's requests for additional information (RAIs) that identify the information needed for the continued review of your license renewal application.

Please provide the information requested within 30 days, or a schedule for providing this information within 15 days, after the receipt of this letter. Please, note that significant delays in responding to this RAI could delay completion of the staff's environmental review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

M. Schimmel

2

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jean Trefethen by telephone at 301-415-7000 or by email at [Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov](mailto:Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Kevin Hsueh, Chief  
Environmental Review Branch  
Environmental Protection and  
Performance Assessment Directorate  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 72-10  
TAC No.: L24592

cc: PINGP Service List

M. Schimmel

2

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jean Trefethen by telephone at 301-415-7000 or by email at [Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov](mailto:Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

Kevin Hsueh, Chief  
Environmental Review Branch  
Environmental Protection and  
Performance Assessment Directorate  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 72-10  
TAC No.: L24592

cc: PINGP Service List

DISTRIBUTION:      MRahimi      MSampson      DDiazToro      CHair      MLemoncelli  
                                 SRuffin

**ML13017A295**

<b>OFC</b>	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP	OGC	DWMEP
<b>NAME</b>	JTrefethen	AWalker-Smith	DDiaz-Toro	CHair	KHsueh
<b>DATE</b>	1/17/13	1/17/13	1/22/13	1/24/13	2/5/13

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant,  
Units 1 and 2

cc:

Manager, Regulatory Affairs  
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant  
Northern States Power Co. - Minnesota  
1717 Wakonade Drive East  
Welch, MN 55089

Manager - Environmental Protection  
Division  
Minnesota Attorney Generars Office  
445 Minnesota St., Suite 900  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2127

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Resident Inspector's Office  
1719 Wakonade Drive East  
Welch, MN 55089-9642

Regional Administrator, Region III  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
801 Warrenville Road  
lisle, IL 60532-4351

Administrator  
Goodhue County Courthouse  
Box 408  
Red Wing, MN 55066-0408  
Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
121 Seventh Place East  
Suite 200  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2145

Tribal Council  
Prairie Island Indian Community  
A TIN: Environmental Department  
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road  
Welch, M N 55089

Paula Anderson  
Director of Licensing and Regulatory  
Affairs  
Northern States Power Co. - Minnesota  
414 Nicollet Mall- MP4,  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dennis Koehl  
Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear  
Officer  
Northern States Power Co. - Minnesota  
414 Nicollet Mall - MP4  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Mark A. Schimmel  
Site Vice President  
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant  
Northern States Power Co. - Minnesota  
1717 Wakonade Drive East  
Welch, MN 55089

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON  
THE PROPOSED LICENSE RENEWAL  
APPLICATION FOR THE PRAIRIE ISLAND  
NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT INDEPENDENT  
SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION

LICENSE NO. SNM-2506  
DOCKET NO. 072-00010

## Request for Additional Information

### **RAI 1:**

Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (NSPM) supplemental Environmental Report (ER) dated October 20, 2011, indicates that in May 2008, NSPM applied for a Certificate of Need (CON) from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC). This CON requested approval for additional storage of up to 64 casks at the Prairie Island (PI) Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). In December 2009, the MPUC issued an Order, "Order Accepting Environmental Impact Statement and Granting Certificates of Need and Site Permit with Conditions," which approved the storage of 16 additional casks (64 casks total) within the PI ISFSI boundary. Although the expansion is not part of the license renewal application but is reasonably foreseeable, it will be evaluated in the cumulative effects analysis of the environmental review. Provide the following additional information with respect to cumulative impacts.

- Clarify the planned schedule for placing up to 64 casks within the PI ISFSI and indicate their cask design type (TN-40 and TN-40HT).
- Discuss the potential cumulative impacts of this expansion for all resource areas to include past impacts on historic and cultural resources and socioeconomic resources. Provide a description of and quantify, where possible, the factors considered in evaluating the potential cumulative impacts. Provide mitigation measures that have been or would be taken to reduce or avoid potential cumulative impacts.
- In addition to this expansion, discuss any past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions which could result in cumulative impacts when combined with the proposed action. Provide a description of the potential cumulative impacts of these actions for all resource areas, quantifying the factors considered where possible, and provide a description of associated mitigation measures that have been or would be taken to reduce or avoid potential cumulative impacts.

This information is necessary for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff to assess the environmental impacts of the proposed action as required by 10 CFR 51.30.

### **RAI 2:**

According to the NRC's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 39, Regarding Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 — Final Report" (NUREG-1437, Supplement 39), NSPM implements a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Clarify whether the ISFSI is discussed within the SWPPP and provide a copy of the following document:

Nuclear Management Company, LLC, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Operations Manual, Section D14.6, "Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan."  
March 2006.

**RAI 3:**

The environmental review for the proposed license renewal will include an environmental justice analysis. Discuss any mitigation measures that have been or would be taken to reduce environmental justice concerns.

This information is necessary for the NRC staff to conduct an environmental justice analysis for the proposed action consistent with NRC's "Policy Statement on the Treatment of Environmental Justice Matters in NRC Regulatory and Licensing Actions" (69 *Federal Register* 52040, August 24, 2004).

**RAI 4:**

By letter dated May 18, 2011, NSPM wrote to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) requesting concerns and data related to the potential impact of the proposed ISFSI license renewal to threatened and endangered species. Provide copies of any further correspondence between NSPM and the FWS related to the proposed ISFSI renewal.

This information is necessary to support NRC's determinations with respect to the Endangered Species Act of 1969, as amended.

**RAI 5:**

NRC staff reviewed FWS's most recent online occurrence data report and found that the Eastern massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus*) was listed as a Federal candidate species as of October 2011 (76 *Federal Register* 66369) and may be present in Goodhue County, Minnesota. Its presence may not have been evaluated in the supplemental ER because the June 30, 2011, index report provided by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to NSPM did not list this species (see supplemental ER pages EA-39 to EA-41). Provide additional information regarding the potential occurrence of the Eastern massasauga rattlesnake in the vicinity of the site to support NSPM's statement that "[it] is aware of no activities during the period of extended operations that would adversely affect threatened or endangered species" (see supplemental ER page E-51).

This information is necessary to support NRC's determinations with respect to the Endangered Species Act of 1969, as amended.

**References:**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Species by County Report, Goodhue, MN." 2013. [http://ecos.fws.gov/tess\\_public/countySearch!speciesByCountyReport.action?fips=27049](http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/countySearch!speciesByCountyReport.action?fips=27049) (11 June 2013).

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 39, Regarding Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, Final Report." NUREG-1437 Supplement 39. Washington, DC. May 2011.